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ABSTRACT

This book offers parents an understanding of the nature and role of adolescent friendship. Chapter 1 presents an introduction to the topic of friendship and examines the benefits and characteristics of friendship, types of love, attachment styles, and contextual features that affect friendship. Chapter 2 discusses friendship stages across the lifespan, addressing developmental tasks that face a person at each stage. Chapter 3 examines adolescent development, outlining cognitive development and discussing changes in thinking ability, social reasoning, moral development, and adolescent identity crisis. The establishment of friendships and the maintenance of friendships are discussed in chapters 4 and 5. Chapter 6 examines the role that talk plays in the adolescent's establishment of identity and how talk promotes intimacy and mutuality in friendship. Gender differences in friendship patterns, opposite-sex friendships, and cross-generational friendships are the focus of chapter 7, and chapter 8 looks at problems in friendships. Chapter 9 discusses dissolving of friendships, particularly dramatic or traumatic break-ups. Chapter 10 offers advice to parents on coping with their teenager's friendships. Contains more than 130 references. (TJQ)

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